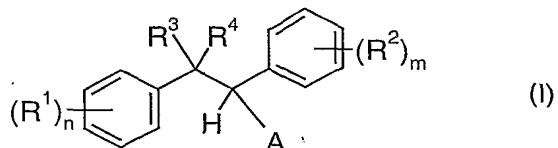


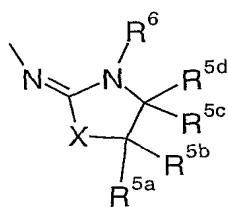
Claims:

1. 1-(Azolin-2-yl)amino-1,2-diphenylethane compounds of the general formula (I):

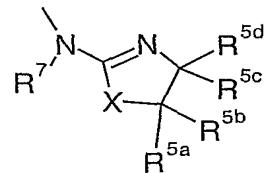


5

wherein A is a radical of the formulae A¹ or A²:



A¹



A2

and wherein

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------|---|
| 10 | m | is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5; |
| | n | is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5; |
| | X | is sulfur or oxygen; |
| 15 | R ¹ , R ² | are each independently halogen, OH, SH, NH ₂ , SO ₃ H, COOH, cyano, nitro, C ₁ -C ₆ -alkyl, C ₁ -C ₆ -alkoxy, C ₁ -C ₆ -alkylamino, di(C ₁ -C ₆ -alkyl)amino, C ₁ -C ₆ -alkylthio, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkenyl, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkenyloxy, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkenylamino, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkenylthio, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkynyl, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkynylthio, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkynylamino, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkynylthio, C ₁ -C ₆ -alkylsulfonyl, C ₁ -C ₆ -alkylsulfoxyl, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkenylsulfonyl, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkynylsulfonyl, formyl, C ₁ -C ₆ -alkylcarbonyl, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkenylcarbonyl, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkynylcarbonyl, C ₁ -C ₆ -alkoxycarbonyl, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkenyloxycarbonyl, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkynyoxy-carbonyl, carbonyloxy, C ₁ -C ₆ -alkylcarbonyloxy, C ₁ -C ₆ -alkenylcarbonyloxy, C ₁ -C ₆ -alkynylcarbonyloxy, wherein the carbon atoms in the aliphatic radicals of the aforementioned groups may carry any combination of 1,2 or 3 radicals R [#] , |
| 20 | | |
| 25 | | C(O)NR ^a R ^b , (SO ₂)NR ^a R ^b , wherein R ^a and R ^b are each independently hydrogen, C ₁ -C ₆ -alkyl, C ₂ -C ₆ -alkenyl, or C ₂ -C ₆ -alkynyl, wherein the carbon atoms in these groups may carry any combination of 1, 2 or 3 radicals R [#] , |
| 30 | | a radical Y-Ar or a radical Y-Cy, wherein |

Y is a single bond, oxygen, sulfur, C₁-C₆-alkandiyl or C₁-C₆-alkandiyoxy,
5 Ar is phenyl, naphthyl or a mono- or bicyclic 5- to 10-membered heteroaromatic ring, which contains 1,2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen as ring members, wherein Ar is unsubstituted or may carry any combination of 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 radicals R[#]; and
Cy is C₃-C₁₂-cycloalkyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted with any combination of 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 radicals R[#];

10 and wherein two radicals R¹ or two radicals R² that are bound to adjacent carbon atoms of the phenyl rings may form together with said carbon atoms a fused benzene ring, a fused saturated or partially unsaturated 5-, 6-, or 7-membered carbocycle or a fused 5-, 6-, or 7-membered heterocycle, which contains 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen as ring members, and wherein the fused ring is unsubstituted or may carry any combination of 1, 2, 3, or 4 radicals R[#];

15 R³, R⁴ are each independently hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, wherein the carbon atoms in these groups may carry any combination of 1, 2 or 3 radicals R[#],

20 phenyl or benzyl, each unsubstituted or substituted with any combination of 1 to 5 halogen, 1 to 3 C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy groups;

25 R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^{5c}, R^{5d} are each independently hydrogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkylamino, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, wherein the carbon atoms in these groups may carry any combination of 1, 2 or 3 radicals R[#], halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, mercapto, amino,

30 phenyl or benzyl, each unsubstituted or substituted with any combination of 1 to 5 halogen, 1 to 3 C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy groups;

35 R⁶ is hydrogen, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆-alkyl, formyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthiocarbonyl, wherein the carbon atoms

in the aliphatic radicals of the aforementioned groups may carry any combination of 1, 2 or 3 radicals R[#],

5 C(O)NR^aR^b, or (SO₂)NR^aR^b, wherein R^a and R^b are as defined above, phenyl, phenoxy, or benzyl, each of the last three mentioned radicals may be unsubstituted or substituted with any combination of 1 to 5 halogen, 1 to 3 C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy groups;

10 R⁷ is hydrogen, cyano, nitro, C₁-C₆-alkyl, formyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, wherein the carbon atoms in the aliphatic radicals of the aforementioned groups may carry any combination of 1, 2 or 3 radicals R[#],

15 C(O)NR^aR^b, or (SO₂)NR^aR^b, wherein R^a and R^b are as defined above, phenyl, phenoxy or benzyl, each of the last three mentioned groups may be unsubstituted or substituted with any combination of 1 to 5 halogen, 1 to 3 C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy groups; and

20 R[#] is halogen, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, mercapto, amino, carboxyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₂-C₆-alkenyloxy, C₂-C₆-alkynyoxy, C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy, or C₁-C₆-alkylthio;

25 and the agriculturally acceptable salts thereof.

2. The compounds as claimed in claim 1, wherein R³ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl.

3. The compounds as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein R⁴ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, or phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted with any combination of 1 to 5 halogen, 1 to 3 C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy groups.

35 4. The compounds as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein both R³ and R⁴ are hydrogen.

40 5. The compounds as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein R³ is hydrogen and R⁴ is selected from C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, or phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted with any combination of 1 to 5 halo-

gen, 1 to 3 C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy groups.

6. The compounds as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein A in formula I is a radical A¹, wherein R⁶ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, formyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl or C₁-C₆-alkylthiocarbonyl.
7. The compounds as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, wherein A in formula I is a radical A², wherein R⁷ is hydrogen.
9. The compounds as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the radicals R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^{5c} and R^{5d} are each hydrogen.
10. The compounds as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of the radicals R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^{5c} and R^{5d} is different from hydrogen.
11. The compounds as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein n in formula I is 0, 1 or 2.
12. The compounds as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein m in formula I is 0, 1 or 2.
13. The compounds as claimed in claim 11 or 12, wherein n+m is an integer from 1, 2, 3 or 4.
14. The compounds as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein R¹ and R² are each independently selected from halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, and phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted with any combination of 1 to 5 halogen, 1 to 3 C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₆-haloalkylthio, C₁-C₆-alkoxy or C₁-C₆-haloalkoxy groups.
15. A method of combating animal pests selected from insects, arachnids and nematodes which comprises contacting said animal pests, their habit, breeding ground, food supply, plant, seed, soil, area, material or environment in which the animal pests are growing or may grow, or the materials, plants, seeds, soils, surfaces or spaces to be protected from attack or infestation by insects, arachnids or nematodes with a pesticidally effective amount of at least one 1-(azolin-2-yl)amino-1,2-diphenylethane compound of the general formula I as defined in claim 1 and/or at least one salt thereof.

16. A method for protecting crops from attack or infestation by insects, arachnids or nematodes which comprises contacting a crop with a pesticidally effective amount of at least one 1-(azolin-2-yl)amino-1,2-diphenylethane compound of the 5 general formula I as defined in claim 1 and/or at least one salt thereof.
17. An agricultural composition comprising at least one 1-(azolin-2-yl)amino-1,2-diphenylethane compound of the general formula I as defined in claim 1 and/or at least one salt thereof and a solid or liquid carrier.